

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as indicated below, wherein double brackets indicate deletion and underlining indicates addition. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) An organic electroluminescent device, comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - electrodes including a first electrode formed on the substrate, and a second electrode disposed to be spaced from the first electrode, wherein the first electrode is formed as a unitary and continuous layer, and the second electrode is formed as a unitary and continuous layer substantially coextensive with the first electrode;
 - a function layer formed between the electrodes, said function layer comprising a carrier injection layer, a carrier transport layer and a luminous layer;
 - a buffer layer disposed on a first side of the second electrode; and
 - a protective film layer disposed on the first side of the second electrode;wherein:
 - the buffer layer is in contact with the first side of said second electrode and is disposed between said second electrode and the protective film layer.
2. (Original) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer layer is formed in a distance of 20 nm or less from an upper end surface of the function layer.
3. (Original) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer layer contains an oxide.
4. (Original) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer layer contains aluminum oxide.

5. (Previously presented) The organic electroluminescent device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a thin layer contiguous with the function layer and containing any of an alkaline metal element and an alkaline earth metal element, said thin layer having a thickness of approximately 0.5 nm.

6.-14. (Cancelled)